GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6296
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2000
INCREASE IN PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES
BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH;GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAV;NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of essential commodities, life saving drugs and other commodities have been continuously increasing to the disadvantage of the common man ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the comparative retail prices in the market of rice, wheat, atta, sugar, pulses, edible oils, milk, life saving drugs, books, stationary etc.as on March 31,1997, March 31,1998, March 31,1999, March 31,2000.

(d) Whether the Government have taken measures to check price rise and also bring them at affordable level for the common man; and

(e) If so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALA SAHEB VIKHE PATIL)

(a) & (b) Wholesale prices of 30 essential commodities whose prices are monitored on a weekly basis rose by 4.7% in 1999-2000. During the first three weeks of the current fiscal year their prices have risen by about 4% largely reflecting seasonal uptrend. Drugs and medicines that have a weight of 2.53 in the new Wholesale Price Index with base 1993-94 did not show any change in the first three weeks of the current fiscal year. The Government through the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority monitors theprices of decontrolled drugs and corrective action is taken as and when their prices rise unduly.

(c) Retail Prices of Selected Essential Commodities in Delhi(end March) (Rs./kg)

Items	1997	1998	1999	2000
Rice	12.00	10.00	11.00	13.00
Wheat	8.50	7.50	8.00	8.00
Sugar	15.00	6.00	16.00	17.00
Gram Dal	17.00	23.00	18.00	20.00
Arhar Dal	23.00	25.00	29.00	29.00
Groundnu Oil	53.00	46.00	77.00	69.00
Mustard oil	39.00	40.00	61.00	44.00
Milk	13.00	14.00	16.00	16.00
Atta	9.00	9.00	9.50	9.00
Life Saving Drugs +	-	-	-	-

+ The current Drugs (Price Control) Order (DPCO) 1995promulgated under the Essential Commodities Act does not define life saving drugs.

(d) & (e) It has been the Government`s endeavour to make concerted efforts to keep inflation under control through effective supply management and also through close monitoring of prices and supply of essential commodities. Corrective action through market intervention is taken as and when required so as to maintain stability in prices.